land laws/rules for regulating conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses.

New varieties of Maize

1938. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists of Punjab Agricultural University have developed a new variety of maize 'Megha' whose yield is about 25 per cent more than the local variety;

(b) whether this new variety would be grown in Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) the area marked in other States for growing the new variety of maize?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This has also been found suitable for growing in Himachal Pradesh.

(c) No such areas have been marked in other States.

Jobs to Job seekers registered with the Employment Exchanges

1939. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the period for which the name of the job seeker can be kept in the live register of the employment exchange after getting registered with it;

(b) what would be the fate of a candidate, so registered if he does not get a job for quite some time and crosses the age limits normally prescribed by Governmental or semi-Governmental departments for the jobs for which he is registered;

(c) whether Government/the Exchange concerned provide any help to such candidates in the above circumstances; and

(d) what is Government's attitude in such cases in the context of its declared policy of providing right to work to all able bodied people?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) According to the procedure prescribed by the Central Government the registrations of the job seekers are valid for period of 3 years after which these are required to be renewed.

(b) to (d) Employment Exchanges are only one amongst several agencies for placement of job seekers. While no special consideration is given by Employment Exchanges in sponsoring the candidates who become overage for Government jobs their names are forwarded against suitable vacancies notified by private sector establishments. Besides, they are also motivated and assisted for taking up self employment venture.

Sugar prices

1940. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the continuing pressure on sugar prices in spite of a record production of 105 lakh tonnes of sugar which is 18 lakh tonnes higher than the last year's production during the current season;

(b) what steps are being taken to relieve the pressure on sugar prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) and (b) The sugar production during the current season is likely to be about 109 lakh tonnes. As a result of various measures taken by the Government the prices of sugar in various parts of the country have remained fairly stable during the past few months.